

**Advisory Commission
Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
December 10, 2007
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

Summary of Meeting

Members Present: Senator Emmett Hanger, Delegate Matthew Lohr, Jr., Delegate Chris Saxman, Senator Harry Blevins, Mr. Ralph Shelman and parent representative Ms. Maureen Hollowell

Others Present: Billy K. Cannaday, Jr. Superintendent of Public Instruction
H. Douglas Cox, Assistant Superintendent
Karen Trump, Director of State Operated Programs, DOE
Phyllise Wilkins, Superintendent VSDBM-H
Nancy Armstrong, Superintendent VSDB-S

Opening Remarks:

Senator Emmett Hanger opened the meeting with an explanation of the meeting to receive an update from the Superintendent of Public Instruction about the New Horizon's interest in assuming operational control of the day regional program. Everyone present introduced themselves. Senator Hanger requested to have the summary from the last meeting and the agenda approved. The motions were put forth, properly seconded and the summary and agenda were approved.

Update of Superintendent of Public Instruction Activities

Dr. Cannaday updated the Advisory Commission on the activities initiated with the New Horizons board of directors to determine whether the board would envision using the VSDBM-H campus for the regional program, and if so, under what conditions. The members discussed the letter from New Horizon's but Dr. Cannaday was asked to continue activities to seek other interested entities in the Hampton Roads area. Mr. Shelman shared that Hampton University had expressed an interest to him. Mr. Shelman also expressed concerns about the need for community support, the creation of viable options, the complexities of the day program starting out with a small number of students and his desire to see the day program formally articulated.

Update on the Consolidation Project

Dr. Trump reported on repairs made to the Hampton campus identified by the assessment conducted by the Architectural & Engineering firm CEGG . She also shared work to date with the planning for the consolidated school at Staunton and reported that a revised conceptual plan and capital project information was submitted in early November, 2007 to the Department of Planning and Budget.

Update from the Superintendents

The Superintendent's shared current enrollment figures (Staunton = 120, Hampton = 43), matters related to instruction and delivery of services and recent student activities. Dr.

Wilkins reported that Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings were conducted with all families and students, with the exception of one parent, to determine which parents wanted their children to transfer to Staunton and which parents wanted their children to remain in either the regional day program or return to their placing school division for services.

Public Comment

There was no public comment but Senator Hanger received and answered several questions from visitors.

Discussion and Next Steps

It was determined that the DOE staff would complete the following:

- develop a staffing proposal for the students expected to participate in a day regional program
- cost out operational costs of Hampton as a day program
- create a statement of interest opportunity with a short turn around period for response

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.